

REMARKS

Claim 41 was rejected under 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 4,249,481 to Adams ("Adams").

In response, applicants have amended the pending claim and added dependent claims 42 and 43. Claim 41 now specifies that at least one of the (two or more) projections is positioned to expand at the tubular portion of the breastshield. Claim 42 requires that the two or more projections include a pair of projections positioned to expand at said tunnel part. Claim 43 specifies the at least one projection is positioned in the widened upstream end.

Adams on the other hand does not disclose "projections" and instead shows "a generally frusto-conical inner surface 17...(that) includes a preselected variation in thickness..." (Col. 5:3-11). Since Adams does not disclose projections and so it cannot anticipate the present claims. Furthermore, Adams does not disclose projections in the tunnel area (see, for example, 996 in FIG. 18), as specified in Claim 41 and so cannot anticipate Claim 41 based on this distinction. Further distinctions are set out in FIGS. 42 and 43 wherein two projections are required in the tunnel area and at least one projection positioned in the widened conical upstream end (see, area 992 in FIG. 18). For these reasons, Claims 41-43 are not anticipated and should be allowed.

Applicants request reconsideration and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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